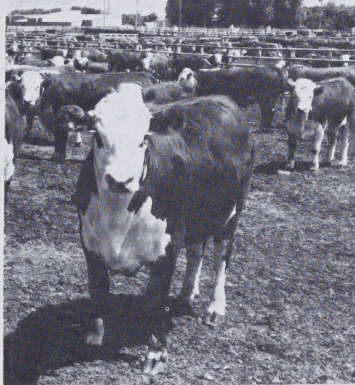
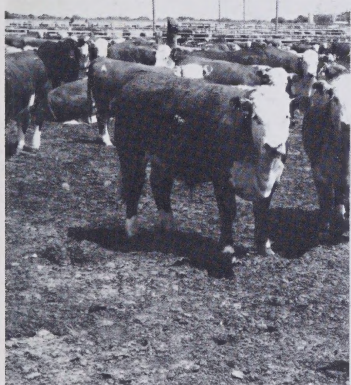


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PROTECTING AMERICA'S ANIMAL HEALTH

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PROTECTING AMERICA'S ANIMAL HEALTH



Getting rid of brucellosis is the number one domestic priority of Veterinary Services. Elimination of this costly cattle disease will cut farmers' production costs . . . and ultimately increase meat supplies for consumers. 0475R480-8a

We live in a meat-lover's paradise.

Consider that for a moment; then ask yourself: Why are we able to produce so much beef . . . lamb . . . pork . . . and poultry for our tables? Of course, there's no simple answer. But a key to this plentiful supply of animal protein can be summed up in one phrase: healthy livestock.

And this is no accident. America's animal health is the result of a team effort: good husbandry by farmers and ranchers, excellent professional care by practicing veterinarians, and an organized effort to control and eradicate animal diseases through regulatory veterinary medicine.

America—the “New Land”

America was fortunate in the beginning. For this was the “new land”—free of the many devastating animal diseases which plagued Europe, Asia, and Africa. But the arrival of a cow in the port of New York in 1843 marked the start of a drastic change in that situation. For that cow brought with her contagious bovine pleuropneumonia—a disease which for centuries had killed millions of cattle in Europe and Asia.

By the 1880's, the situation was critical. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, hog cholera, Texas cattle fever, and other diseases were taking a heavy toll of cattle and swine. Foot-and-mouth disease had already made a brief appearance. American meats and animals were being rejected in foreign markets.

In 1884, Congress created the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) within USDA to “prevent the export-

tation of diseased cattle, and to provide means for the suppression and extirpation of pleuropneumonia and other contagious diseases among domestic animals.” Within 8 years, BAI scientists had wiped out contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and

“The policy of animal disease eradication—rather than control—became firmly established . . .”

were well on their way to finding the key to the eradication of Texas cattle fever. Other successes followed. Between 1870 and 1929, nine outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease were wiped out—in all but two cases within a few months. Import rules developed after the last outbreak have played a major part in protecting our country from this dread disease since then.

Fowl plague was eradicated in 1929. Glanders and dourine, two horse diseases, were eliminated in 1934 and 1942, respectively. The successful conclusion of a 37-year battle against cattle fever ticks and the disease they carry came in 1943.

Eradication—Not Just Control

The policy of animal disease eradication—rather than control—became firmly established in the early years of the BAI. The basic procedures of quarantine, slaughter and disinfection proved again and again the fact that



Fighting diseases depends on a good diagnostic capability . . . the Veterinary Services Laboratories at Ames, Ia., receive reference samples from State and local laboratories throughout the country. **0874X1316-4**

animal diseases could be eradicated. The principle of cooperation with the States in disease eradication programs also became established in these early years.

In 1953, the BAI was abolished and its functions were transferred to USDA's Agricultural Research Service and later—in 1971—to Veterinary Services in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

"It took a year and a half and the destruction of nearly 12 million birds before the disease was wiped out."

But the proud traditions of the BAI continued. Vesicular exanthema (VE) of swine was eradicated in 1959. That same year, screwworms were eradicated in the southeastern United States. Later, overwintering populations of this pest were eradicated in the Southwest, and now a cooperative program is underway in Mexico to prevent annual reinfestations.

VEE Stopped in South Texas

More recently, in 1971, Veterinary Services stopped an invasion of Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE)—the horse sleeping sickness—in south Texas. Later that year, a massive outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease struck poultry in southern California. It took a year and a half and, the destruction of nearly 12 million birds—mostly laying hens—before the disease was wiped out—at a cost of \$56 million.

January 1973 marked the official end of a "300-year itch"—the eradication of sheep scabies.

And we are approaching the point where the United States can be officially declared "hog cholera free"—perhaps the most significant accomplishment in more than 90 years of fighting animal diseases.

Veterinary Services Today

Veterinary Services in APHIS has five basic areas of responsibility: (1) fighting domestic animal diseases; (2) keeping foreign diseases out of the country and certifying the health of export animals; (3) eradicating outbreaks of animal diseases that get past our border defenses; (4) keeping veterinary biologics safe, pure, potent, and effective; and (5) providing for humane care of animals.

Fighting animal diseases depends on a good diagnostic capability. The Veterinary Services Laboratories at Ames, Ia., have the best and fastest capability for diagnosing animal diseases in the United States.

Livestock Industry is the Key

The decision to begin a nationwide campaign against a domestic animal disease is based on several factors. What is the public health significance and economic importance of the disease? Can it be controlled by individual farmers without an area approach? Do scientists know enough about the disease? And most importantly, are producers and the livestock industry willing to cooperate in the campaign?



Seeing to the welfare of animals used in research, in circuses, zoos, and in the wholesale pet trade is a big challenge for Veterinary Services.

Veterinary Services coordinates animal disease eradication programs with the various States that are involved. Currently, cooperative State-Federal programs are underway against such domestic diseases as brucellosis, tuberculosis, cattle scabies, and sheep scrapie. Brucellosis has top priority among these programs.

Veterinary Services import regulations are strictly enforced to prevent the possible introduction of foreign animal diseases. Animals and poultry may be brought into the United States only after comprehensive inspection and quarantine procedures. Animals to be exported are

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checked to be sure they meet the health requirements of the receiving country.

Foreign Diseases—Still a Threat

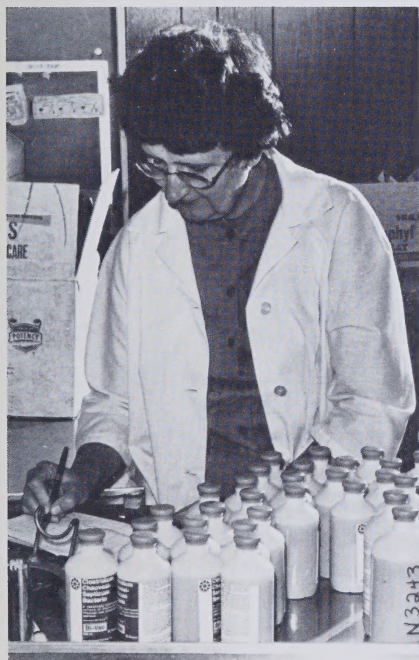
In an era of rapid air and land travel, the U.S. livestock population is faced with an ever-increasing threat from exotic diseases. Special teams of trained veterinarians, animal health technicians and other experts have been set up within Veterinary Services to respond immediately to an outbreak of a foreign animal disease.

Under the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act of 1913, Veterinary Services regulates the production and marketing of veterinary biologics to make sure the vaccines, antitoxins, and similar products shipped across State lines are safe, pure, potent, and effective.

Veterinary Services also enforces humane laws, including the handling of livestock shipped by railroad; the care and treatment of animals used in research, the wholesale pet trade, zoos, and circuses; and the prohibiting of "soring"—the use of cruel and inhumane practices to exaggerate the gait of show horses.

Today's picture of America's animal health is far rosier than the bleak

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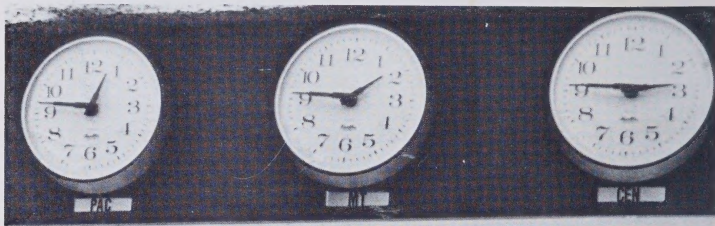


Animal vaccines and other veterinary biologics play an important role in animal health . . . and Veterinary Services works to make sure these products are safe, pure, potent, and effective.

one of the 1880's. Our livestock population is among the healthiest and most productive in the world. And Veterinary Services is working hard to see that we continue to live in a "meat-lover's paradise."

"Special teams respond immediately to outbreaks of foreign animal diseases."

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Five regional emergency animal disease eradication organizations (READEO's) have been set up within Veterinary Services to handle any foreign disease that might gain entry into this country.